

Aroostook County Conservation Association

2019-20 Activity Report

Last year we celebrated our 10th year of conservation activities in Aroostook County. Today, after having completed 11 years of hard work, we are pleased to report that we have grown more efficient and effective, enabling us to help more deer for longer periods of time.

As deer enthusiasts, we understand the importance of good winter nutrition and predator management, both of which increase the winter survival rate of the deer herd and leads to successful fawning in the spring. So we made some important enhancements to these vital parts of our winter conservation programs.

First, with the generous support of our sponsors, we increased that portion of our budget which is dedicated to feeding deer. In addition to our normal grain purchase of approximately 270 barrels of oats and barley, we spent \$7,200.00 to buy 158 round bales of Alfalfa which were strategically placed in “traffic-safe” areas stretching from Fort Kent to Fort Fairfield. When transportation and other costs are factored in, these expenditures easily exceeded \$21,000.00 and will certainly pay dividends when the fawns are born.



Secondly, we have extended the duration of our predator management program from October into the early spring which should allow for more coyotes to be removed from the landscape, including mated pairs, which will disrupt their breeding activity and result in fewer litters.

Habitat improvement remains one of our priorities. Our members planted 10,000 cedar trees, 710 Oaks and 100 acres of food plots. And last but not least, we sent another 5 children to summer camp.

Acknowledging that our future lies in the hands of our children, we formally instituted a tuition assistance scholarship program whereby college students of members who are enrolled in a conservation related course of studies may be eligible to receive up to \$1,000.00 annually.

Conservation work is time consuming and difficult, yet each of us at the A.C.C.A. derives immeasurable personal satisfaction from knowledge that the White-tailed deer's habitat is better because of our efforts. But it is only through the generosity of our sponsors and donors that we can continue to make these important habitat improvements, and by your continuing support, we hope that you too will feel the same sense of personal satisfaction that we do!